

# Recognitions at July 2009 State Board Meeting

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade math or science teacher can receive. This program is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Each year, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators recommends up to 108 teachers to receive Presidential Awards—one math teacher and one science teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, US territories and Department of Defense schools.

Those selected for the honor receive a \$10,000 award, a Presidential citation, a trip to the Washington awards ceremony and a chance to participate in information exchange programs. Five South Carolina school teachers have been named state finalists for the program.

- **Alyssa Mann – State Finalist for Science Teaching**

State Superintendent Jim Rex (photo at right) congratulates Alyssa Mann, a third grade teacher at Diamond Hill Elementary in Abbeville County. Alyssa has 14 years of experience and teaches third grade. In addition to being National Board certified, she is a former school and county teacher of the year and a Disney Teacher Award winner.

- **Mary Meggett – State Finalist for Science Teaching**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Cindy Clark (photo below) congratulate Principal Stephen Burger, who accepts recognition on behalf of Mary Meggett, a fifth grade teacher at Stiles Point Elementary, Charleston County. A teacher for 13 years, she now works with third grade. She is a former teacher of the year, a school-level reading teacher of the year, and a former Presidential Award finalist.



- **Mirandi Squires – State Finalist for Science Teaching**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Trip DuBard congratulate Mirandi Squires (photo below), a third grade teacher at Johnsonville Elementary, Florence District Five. Miranda has taught for 19 years. She is a former Teacher of the Year and is National Board certified. She is also a member of the National Board's Certification Assessment Review Panel.



- **Christi Fricks – State Finalist for Mathematics Teaching**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Dr. Lyn Norton (photo at right) congratulate Christi Fricks of Lakeside Middle School, Anderson District Five. Christi has 10 years of classroom experience and currently teaches sixth-grade accelerated math. She is National Board certified and is a former school teacher of the year.



- **Miriam Hunt – State Finalist for Mathematics**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Dr. Britt Blackwell (photo at left) congratulate Miriam Hunt of Orchard Park Elementary School, York District Four. Miriam is a 29 year-teaching veteran and works as a math specialist/coach for grades 3-5. She was named a school teacher of the year twice. She is also a First Union Outstanding Educator and a former member of the state's Instructional Materials Review Panel for Math.



## **Administrators' group picks state principals, assistant principals of the year**

The South Carolina Association of School Administrators is a united alliance of diverse school leaders and the leading force for public education in our state. Its members advocate for a superior education for young people, work to influence education legislation and policy, build coalitions, work to ensure effective leaders and provide programs and services for educators. Each year the association names outstanding principals and assistant principals on the elementary, middle school and high school levels.

- **Carole Ingram – Middle School Principal of the Year**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Dennis Thompson (photo at right) congratulate Carole Ingram, principal of Beaufort Middle School in the Beaufort County School District. Ingram has been a catalyst for change wherever she has served. Under her leadership, Beaufort Middle School has transitioned from "good to great." Her enthusiastic determination for improvement is always evident. Her keen understanding of how both students and teachers learn has kept the school on a steady path of improvement. Ingram just completed five at the helm of Beaufort Middle.





- **Camilla Groome – Elementary School Principal of the Year**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Patsy Pye congratulate Camilla “Cammy” Groome, principal of Newington Elementary School, Dorchester District Two. Groome lives by the belief that the “nature of the relationships between the adults who inhabit a school has more to do with the quality and character of a school and success of its pupils than any factor.” She credits her ability to gather highly capable professionals and to provide them with the support that they need to be effective. In her ninth year as principal at Newington Elementary, Groome has exceptional insight and serves as a mentor to administrators in her district.



- **Dr. Glenda George – Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Rose Sheheen (right in photo) congratulate Dr. Glenda George, assistant principal at Spring Valley High, Richland District Two. Dr. George was accompanied by daughter Ricki and husband Rick. Dr. George has worked to increase participation in Advanced Placement courses, to include departmental instructional leaders in classroom teacher observations, and has enhanced technology use in assessment. Her peers say that she is a hands-on team-builder who has been instrumental in school reform.

- **Jennifer Morillo – Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year**



State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Dennis Thompson (at right in photo) congratulate Jennifer Morillo, assistant principal at Lady’s Island Middle School, Beaufort County. Focusing on learning – not just on teaching – has become Morillo’s theme. Through curriculum mapping, she has worked with her team to provide students with guaranteed and viable curriculum that meets their individual needs. She has an unwavering commitment to her superiors and to the colleagues and students she serves. She was accompanied by her principal, Terry Bennett.

- **Jan Fickling – Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Rose Sheheen (right in photo) congratulate Jan Fickling, assistant principal at Lake Carolina Elementary School, Richland District Two. This leader is most proud of her administrative involvement in her school's designation as a Professional Development School and the implementation of Integrated Thematic Instruction. These programs have directly improved student achievement and school climate at Lake Carolina, where Fickling has served for four years. An innovator and risk taker, she is a cheerleader for her school and for public education. She was accompanied by Dr. James Ann Lynch (second from left), her former principal.



## **Counseling association establishes Career Development Facilitator award**

The National Career Development Association is a division of the American Counseling Association. Its mission is to promote the career development of all people over their life span. This year, the group established its first Outstanding Career Development Facilitator award.

- **Tony Kroll – Outstanding Career Development Facilitator**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Gerrita Postlewait (left in photo) congratulate award winner Tony Kroll, an adult education career and college transition specialist in the Horry County School District. Transition specialists were established by the South Carolina Education and Economic Development Act as part of the “Personal Pathways to Success” program that prepares students for the workforce and post-high-school education through early career planning and individualized curriculum.

As part of his job, Tony creates résumés, practices job interview skills, teaches how to dress for success, searches for employment including local job fairs, meets local business and education leaders and takes part in Career Day seminars, investigates college majors and takes monthly tours of Horry-Georgetown Technical College and Coastal Carolina University.

He also helps students register for college, completes financial aid applications and searches for scholarships, exposes students to military careers and sets up meetings with recruiters, tours local libraries and arranges library cards for students, translates foreign credentials and education transcripts and teaches skills related to setting up bank accounts, buying cars, renting apartments and obtaining legal advice.

Tony's background is so varied, his energy level is so high and his ability to “connect the dots” is so honed that he is able to work with several projects and yet always focus on how each area of work will benefit students. Tony was accompanied by Dr. Virginia Simmons, Horry County's adult education director.

